

# Reception News

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. We have a brand-new topic for this half term - 'Once Upon a Time'. We had a special visitor on Monday – a big bad wolf dressed up as Little Red Riding Hood's Granny. The children enjoyed asking questions to try to guess who our visitor was. We will also be reading 'There is No Dragon in This Story' and watching a video of a friendly dragon talking about the book. Our topic for the half term will be all about traditional tales such as 'Goldilocks & The Three Bears', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Cinderella'. We will also be learning about bonfire night, taking part in nursery rhyme week (next week) and will, of course, have lots of Christmas themed activities later in the half term.

This week we are talking about bonfire night as many of the children will have seen fireworks over the weekend or will be seeing them over the next few days and will begin to think about Remembrance Day. We will be making poppies to take with us when we join the Remembrance service on the common next week.

## **This week we are learning:**

**Phonics** – we are taking a week to recap all of the sounds and tricky words that we have learned so far. We will be playing lots of games to practice blending and segmenting and will be learning a tricky word song.

**Maths** – we are recapping all of the numbers that we've learned so far (1-5) and will be using a 5 frame and part-part-whole diagrams to find number bonds for 5. Outside, we will be using natural resources to make number sentences showing which group of objects is more than or less than and will be playing Simon Says to practice our counting.

**Jigsaw** – we are talking about what we are good at. We are all good at different things and, equally, we all find different things more difficult. We will be focusing on our strengths and thinking about how we can get better at things that we find difficult.

**Music** – we will be starting to learn some Christmas songs for our Nativity which we will be performing to parents in December (more details to follow). We will also be listening to Tchaikovsky's 18<sup>th</sup> Overture, trying to picture fireworks while we listen.

**Other** – we will be dressing up as fairytale characters, making crowns and will be starting to talk about traditional tales. We are also talking about fireworks and bonfire safety, making firework pictures with chalk and black paper (and maybe some glitter) and will be talking about Guy Fawkes. We will also be making poppies for our Remembrance service and will be talking about why we see poppies at this time of the year.

## **Reminders**

- Water bottles – please remember that water bottles should only contain water (not squash). Water bottles are kept in the classrooms, and children have access to them throughout the day. If your child has a packed lunch, they need an additional drink in their lunch box which can be squash or juice.
- Now that the weather is getting colder, please remember a warm coat every day. When children bring gloves and hats into school, please make sure that they are named.
- Lip balms – could you please refrain from sending lip balms into school? Children invariably end up sharing them with their friends, which could be a problem for children with allergies.
- Could we please have plimsoles in school for all children? We will need them for our Nativity rehearsals which we will be starting very soon.
- Parents evenings are next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please make sure you sign up for a 10 minute appointment for an update on your child's progress.
- Some parents have asked for alternatives to Bug Club for practicing sounds at home. We have attached a document with some suggestions to this email.

